

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4138

S E C R E T USNATO 0900

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO EUROPE; SPRING COUNCIL
MINISTERIAL

FOR THE SECRETARY

1. AT PERMREPS LUNCH FEBRUARY 19, SYG LUNS APPEALED TO THE U.S. THROUGH ME TO SAY WHETHER A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE SCHEDULED IN APRIL TO SIGN THE DECLARATIONS. HE SAID WE MUST MOVE NOW OR PRIME MINISTERS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL HAVE MADE COMMITMENTS AND WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND AN APRIL SIGNING. FOURTEEN NATIONS WERE AWAITING WORD FROM WASHINGTON. LUNS WOULD CONTACT SECRETARY KISSINGER IF I THOUGHT IT NECESSARY.

2. AS TO THE SPRING NAC MINISTERIAL, SOME PERMREPS FAVORED COMBINING THIS WITH A HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING. HOWEVER, FRENCH PERMREP NOTED THAT IF THE PRESIDENT COMES TO EUROPE HE WILL PRESUMABLY VISIT CAPITALS AS WELL AS NATO HEADQUARTERS, AND THIS WOULD CREATE A PROBLEM BECAUSE PRIME MINISTERS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE ENGAGED IN MAKING PREPARATIONS IN THEIR CAPITALS FOR A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT.

3. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE BELIEVED THE COUNCIL MINISTERIAL SHOULD BE HELD IN JUNE SO AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IN APRIL. A NUMBER OF OTHER PERMREPS AGREED WITH DE STAERCKE. DE STAERCKE INTENDS TO PROPOSE THIS FORMALLY AT THE FEBRUARY 20 NAC.

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4. COMMENT: IF THE PRESIDENT IS COMING TO EUROPE IN APRIL, THE SCHEDULING PROBLEMS FOR PRIME MINISTERS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT LUNS MENTIONED ARE REAL AND INCREASING DAILY. ALSO, AS LUNS HAS PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED TO ME, SCHEDULING PROBLEMS COULD BE USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR NON-ATTENDANCE BY CERTAIN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

PLEASE ADVISE AS TO PROPOSED RESPONSE AS TO TIMING.
REQUEST GUIDANCE FOR USE FEBRUARY 20.RUMSFELD

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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